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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**24 JANUARY 2019**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Los Angeles – Three Men Charged with Conspiracy to Make ‘Swatting’ Calls**

(U) Three men have been charged with conspiracy to help a Los Angeles man make phony emergency ‘swatting’ calls around the nation in hopes of sending police to the scene or forcing building evacuations. Federal indictments unsealed yesterday in Los Angeles allege they conspired with Tyler Barriss in 2017 to make bomb and shooting reports to police, a high school, and convention center in Connecticut, Texas, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri and Illinois. Barriss pleaded guilty in November 2018 to making hoax calls, including one that led a Wichita, Kansas, police officer answering a shooting call to kill an innocent man. The Los Angeles indictment names Neal Patel of Des Plaines, Illinois; Tyler Stewart of Gulf Breeze, Florida; and Logan Patten of Greenwood, Missouri. Two are in custody.

SOURCE: 23 January 2019, [AP](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) Arizona – Cartels Reopen Old Migrant Routes Through Arizona, New Mexico**

(U) Nogales – Border Patrol agents have found several large Central American migrant groups crossing the US-Mexico border along remote stretches of desert — a smuggling tactic that requires the buy-in of larger criminal groups. Since October 2018, criminal organizations have smuggled more than two dozen migrant groups to the desolate region near the Antelope Wells port of entry in southwest New Mexico, Border Patrol officials said in a news release. The groups — each numbering in the hundreds — have all surrendered to authorities upon entering.

SOURCE: 23 January 2019, [Insightcrime](#)

(U) Arizona – MS-13 Gang Members Arrested by US CBP in Yuma

(U) Yuma – Border Patrol agents say two members of the MS-13 gang have been caught in southern Arizona. US Customs and Border Protection officials say Yuma Sector agents conducting a patrol along the Colorado River apprehended the pair on the night of 22 January. The men, who are 37 years old and 19 years old, were found to be from Honduras and had illegally crossed the border into the US. They were flagged as MS-13 members and the older suspect has previously had convictions in Georgia.

SOURCE: 23 January 2019, [AP](#)

(U) New York – Traffickers at El Chapo Trial Say They Smuggled Through Legal Checkpoints

(U) New York City – Former members of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman's cartel testified during his trial that drug traffickers usually smuggled drugs through legal checkpoints along the US-Mexico border. Witnesses revealed that smugglers resorted to using tunnels and sea routes, and by using passenger cars with hidden compartments in their chassis as a means to smuggle drugs from Mexico into the United States.

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SOURCE: 23 January 2019, [The Hill](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) Florida – Five People Killed in Florida Bank Shooting; Suspect in Custody**

(U) Sebring – Five people were killed in a shooting at a Florida bank, police said yesterday. A gunman has been taken into custody after a SWAT team entered the SunTrust Bank branch in Sebring, Florida, Chief Karl Hoglund said at a press conference. The suspect has been identified as Zephen Xaver, 21, of Sebring. "Obviously this is an individual that needs to face very swift and exacting justice," Gov. Ron DeSantis said at the press conference. He added it was a "terrible day for Sebring, Highlands County and for the people of the state of Florida."

SOURCE: 23 January 2019, [CBS News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Italy – Italian Convert to Islam Held on Inciting Terror Charge**

(U) Milan – Police in Sicily have arrested a 32-year-old Italian convert to Islam on terrorism charges for allegedly inciting contacts to participate in a holy war. The news agency ANSA reported yesterday that the suspect, identified as Giuseppe D'Ignoti, converted in 2011 while in jail and after his release identified himself as Moroccan and used Yussuf as his first name. ANSA says investigators allege he tried to manifest his hatred of the West by calling for more than 100 contacts on Whatsapp to join ISIS and to carry out attacks in Italy. They also allege he forced his girlfriend to follow Islam, wear a veil and to watch videos showing executions of "infidels."

SOURCE: 23 January 2019, [AP](#)

(U) Philippines – New People's Army Attacked Construction Workers in Quezon

(U) Rizal – Members of the communist New Peoples' Army (NPA) attacked workers of the Pacific Summit Construction Group Inc. (PSCGI) on 21 January in Sitio Pandarawan, Barangay Maragondon, Real, Quezon. According to Brigadier General Arnulfo Burgos, construction workers were awakened from their sleep when a group of about 10 armed men intruded their quarters and rounded them up. The assailants then burned the equipment on site using gasoline.

SOURCE: 23 January 2019, [UNTV News](#)

(U) Venezuela – Maduro Government Cuts Ties after US Backs Opposition Leader

(U) Caracas – Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro has responded with defiance after the US recognized opposition leader Juan Guaidó as interim president. Mr. Maduro said Venezuela was breaking off relations with the US and gave diplomats 72 hours to leave. Seven South American nations including Brazil, Colombia and Peru have followed the US in backing Mr. Guaidó as the legitimate president. Canada is also supporting him, while the EU called for new elections. However, Mexico, Bolivia and Cuba have expressed support for Mr. Maduro.

SOURCE: 23 January 2019, [BBC](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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